

**PROFESSIONAL-
TECHNICAL
EDUCATION
FY 2002 ANNUAL
REPORT**

OUR MISSION

To provide Idaho's youth and adults with technical skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary for successful performance in a highly effective workplace.

Professional-Technical
Education is governed by
the State Board of
Education, designated as the
State Board for
Professional-Technical
Education.

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MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATOR

Budget holdbacks, increased public support and the single largest fall enrollment increase in history for Idaho's technical colleges made 2002 a year of challenges and significant progress. The economic downturn and a need for higher level work skills created significant demand for professional-technical education in high schools and colleges. In addition, an increasingly complex work environment and the new Idaho achievement standards made program quality more important than ever. To address that need, the system continued to improve curricula and expand program options. Program areas began to map their specific content to the academic standards so that all teachers could be better prepared to help students meet the new graduation requirements. Those efforts were also intended to help students to be able to combine solid academic skills with quality technical education to solve real world problems in real world settings.



Professional-technical education continued to be a priority for business, students and parents. Secondary PTE enrollment was up by 23% and postsecondary enrollment was up 47% over the past five years. Nearly every high school student in Idaho took at least one professional-technical course. A survey of public priorities in Idaho also indicated strong support for additional professional-technical education at both the high school and college levels. Tech Prep programs, connecting high school and college courses to make more efficient use of public resources and student investment, increased dramatically.

Upgrade and customized training for the existing workforce continued to serve large numbers of people. Education for new positions was also provided with support from the Workforce Development Training Fund. Training for emergency responders was delivered with instruction ranging from how to rescue people from burning buildings to how to deal with a spill of hazardous material.

Idaho citizens deserve quality professional-technical educational opportunities. They deserve to have programs delivered in ways that meet their needs. They also expect those programs to be administered effectively, providing a quality, cost-efficient product.

It is our intention to help make that happen. This report provides an overview of professional-technical education in Idaho along with highlights and performance results. As always, if you have any additional questions, please let us know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Rush". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "M" and a cursive "Rush".

Mike Rush
Administrator